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Non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests

Revised composite draft text for developing a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

In its resolution 2006/49, on the outcome of the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Economic and Social Council called for the conclusion and adoption of a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests at the seventh session of the Forum. Based on an analysis of proposals and comments provided by member States and regional groups on possible elements to be included in the instrument, as well as consultations with the Bureau of the seventh session, the secretariat of the Forum prepared a composite draft text for a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests as a background paper to facilitate the work of the open-ended ad hoc expert group on the consideration of the content of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests which met in New York from 11 to 15 December 2006. Following very positive and constructive discussions, the ad hoc expert group requested the Bureau, with the assistance of the secretariat, to prepare a revised draft composite text, taking into account the views provided by the experts, for the consideration of the Forum at its seventh session. The revised draft composite text appears as the annex to the present note.

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1. In its resolution 2006/49, on the outcome of the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Economic and Social Council called for the conclusion and adoption of a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests at the seventh session of the Forum. Member States were requested to provide proposals on possible elements to be included in the instrument. During and after the sixth session, 18 proposals were submitted to the secretariat of the Forum by countries and regional groups, in addition to proposals by two major groups. As also called for by the resolution, seven member States submitted comments to the secretariat on the compilation of those proposals. Together, the proposals and comments represented the views of 97 countries.

2. The proposals and comments were analysed and elements for possible inclusion identified in the note by the Secretariat on developing a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests (E/CN.18/AC.1/2006/2), which was prepared to facilitate the work of the meeting of the open-ended ad hoc expert group on the consideration of the content of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, held in New York from 11 to 15 December 2006. Based on that analysis, and in consultation with the Bureau of the seventh session of the Forum, the secretariat prepared a composite draft text for a non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests as a background paper to assist the ad hoc expert group in its deliberations. Following the proposal of the Bureau, the ad hoc expert group agreed to base its deliberations on the composite draft text. The results of those discussions are contained in the report of the ad hoc expert group (E/CN.18/AC.1/2006/4).

3. Following very positive and constructive discussions, the ad hoc expert group requested the Bureau, with the assistance of the secretariat, to prepare a revised draft composite text, taking into account the views provided by the experts, for the consideration of the Forum at its seventh session. Careful attention was given to the structure of the instrument based on the proposals provided by experts. The revised draft composite text has been included as the annex to the present note.

4. In considering the revised composite draft text, member States are urged not to lose sight of the voluntary nature of the instrument. The intent of the instrument is to promote sustainable forest management, the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the contribution of forests to internationally agreed development goals through cooperation at the national, regional and global levels, with due respect for the sovereign rights of countries over their natural resources and for their rights and obligations under other agreements.

5. Some of the elements included in the draft composite text of the non-legally binding instrument may also need to be addressed further in the multi-year programme of work, including: the selection of indicators for measuring progress in achieving the global objectives on forests and the contribution of forests to internationally agreed development goals; the elaboration of financial rules and procedures in the event that agreement is reached on the establishment of a global forest fund; the further development of clustering and synthesizing the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action and the resolutions of the Forum according to the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management; and the development of a format for reporting on progress towards the achievement of sustainable forest management and the global objectives on forests.

6. In further considering section XI of the draft text on the relationship to other instruments, member States may also wish to consider how to address linkages with forest-related non-legally binding instruments that are developed in other forums, with a view to strengthening complementarity, cooperation and coordination.

7. To understand better the presentation of the revised composite draft text, delegates are requested to bear the following in mind:

(a) Much of the text is in italics and is footnoted to help delegates identify those paragraphs containing language that has already been negotiated and agreed upon, with the footnotes providing the source of the language;

(b) In order to distinguish between the initial text in the composite draft text that was presented and reviewed by the ad hoc expert group and new text proposed by experts at the December 2006 meeting and subsequently by the Bureau, the new proposed text appears in bold, with the exception of the headings;

(c) Attributions have not been included in the annexed text but can be found in the composite draft text that appears as annex I of the report of the open-ended ad hoc expert group (E/CN.18/AC.1/2006/4);

(d) The order of paragraphs has been changed in the revised composite draft text annexed to this note. For ease of reference, the initial numbering of each paragraph, as contained in the composite draft text, is provided in square brackets at the end of each paragraph of the new text.

Annex

Non-legally binding international instrument/ understanding/code for sustainable forest management

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Preamble

Member/**[participating]**/**[subscribing]** States and regional economic integration organizations,[1]

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution *2000/35 of 18 October 2000 on the report of the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests, in which, inter alia, the Council decided on the main objectives and functions of the international arrangement on forests, established the United Nations Forum on Forests, and invited the executive heads of relevant organizations, institutions and instruments to form a Collaborative Partnership on Forests to support the work of the Forum and to enhance cooperation and coordination among participants, and Council resolution* 2006/49 of 28 July 2006 on the outcome of the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests;[2]

Reaffirming their commitment to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including, inter alia, that States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and to the common but differentiated responsibilities of countries as set out in Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;[3]

Recalling the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests; chapter 11 of Agenda 21; the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests Proposals for Action; resolutions and decisions of the United Nations Forum on Forests; the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development; the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development; and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document and relevant international legally binding instruments;[4]

Welcoming the accomplishments of the international arrangement on forests since its inception, and desiring to strengthen the international arrangement on forests, as set out in Economic and Social Council resolutions 2000/35 and 2006/49, and to focus on the effective implementation of sustainable forest management at the national, subregional and regional levels;

Reaffirming that the United Nations Forum on Forests, with the assistance of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, is the key intergovernmental mechanism to support, facilitate and coordinate the implementation of sustainable forest management at the national, regional and global levels, and stressing the importance of its appropriate strengthening;

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[1] Hereinafter, "member States" also refers to regional economic integration organizations.

[2] Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49, first preambular paragraph.

[3] Ibid, fourth preambular paragraph.

[4] Ibid., third, fifth and fourth preambular paragraphs.

Reaffirming also the importance of achieving the Millennium Development Goals within their time frame and their concern that some countries may not be in a position to do so in view of lack of adequate financial and technical resources;

Emphasizing that sustainable forest management contributes *significantly to sustainable development, poverty eradication and the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,* taking full account of the linkages between the forest sector and other sectors;[5]

Recognizing the importance of the multiple economic, social and environmental benefits derived from goods and services provided by forests and by trees outside forests;[6]

Expressing concern about continued deforestation and forest degradation, as well as the slow rate of afforestation and forest cover recovery and reforestation, and the resulting adverse impact on economies, the environment, including biological diversity, and the livelihoods of at least a billion people and their cultural heritage, and emphasizing the need for more effective implementation of sustainable forest management at all levels to address these critical challenges;[7]

Expressing concern also that illegal logging and its associated trade in illegally harvested forest products have reached an alarming rate that is causing the loss of revenues, degradation of ecosystems, loss of biodiversity and aggravating poverty, particularly in developing countries;

Recognizing the importance of domestic forest law enforcement and governance to sustainable forest management, and the contribution in this regard of regional forest law enforcement and governance ministerial processes and related trade initiatives;

Reaffirming *the special needs and requirements of countries with fragile forest ecosystems, including those of low forest cover countries;*[8]

Recognizing the significant contribution of major groups and relevant stakeholders in the planning, development and implementation of national forest policies;

Recognizing also the important contribution of voluntary public-private partnerships and private sector initiatives at all levels to achieving effective implementation of sustainable forest management and supporting national strategies, plans and priorities related to forests;[9] and noting in this regard, inter alia, the Congo Basin Forest Partnership and the Asia Forest Partnership;

Stressing *the need to strengthen political commitment and collective efforts at all levels, to include forests on national and international development agendas, to enhance national policy coordination and international cooperation and to promote intersectoral coordination at all levels for the effective implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests;*[10]

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[5] Ibid., seventh preambular paragraph.
[6] Ibid., sixth preambular paragraph.
[7] Ibid., eighth preambular paragraph.
[8] Ibid., ninth preambular paragraph.
[9] Ibid., eleventh preambular paragraph.
[10] Ibid., twelfth preambular paragraph.

Understanding that States should cooperate to promote a supportive and open international economic system that would lead to economic growth and sustainable development in all countries in order to better address the problems of environmental degradation, and that trade policy measures for environmental purposes should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustified discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade;

Emphasizing that effective implementation of sustainable forest management is critically dependent upon adequate resources, including financing, capacity development and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and recognizing in particular the need to mobilize increased financial resources, including from innovative sources, for developing countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition;[11]

Recognizing the need to strengthen the interaction between the United Nations Forum on Forests and relevant regional forest-related mechanisms, institutions and instruments, organizations and processes, with the participation of major groups, as identified in Agenda 21, and relevant stakeholders to facilitate enhanced cooperation and effective implementation of sustainable forest management, as well as to contribute to the work of the Forum;

Resolve **to respect and agree to** the following non-legally binding **international** instrument/understanding/code **on sustainable forest management** as a voluntary instrument to enhance international cooperation and to support national, regional and subregional policies and measures, within the International Arrangement on Forests and the mandate of the United Nations Forum on Forests, and request the General Assembly of the United Nations to adopt the present international instrument/understanding/code on sustainable forest management.

I. Principles and use of terms

1. ***Reaffirming and building upon*** **the Rio Forest Principles and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,**[12] **adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in June 1992, the member/participating/subscribing States resolve to respect the following principles:** [see previous paras. 1 and 2, merged]

(a) The present instrument/understanding/code is voluntary, non-legally binding and open to all States **and regional economic integration organizations and major groups as identified in Agenda 21;** [see previous para. 2 (a)]

(b) **Nothing in the present instrument prejudices the rights, jurisdictions and duties of member/participating/subscribing States under international law;** [see previous para. 2 (f) bis]

(c) Each **State** is responsible for the sustainable management of its forests and **for promoting good governance** and the enforcement of its forest laws, which are essential to achieving sustainable forest management; [see previous para. 2 (c)]

[11] Ibid., tenth preambular paragraph.

[12] Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests.

(d) **National forest policies should take into consideration in an integrated manner, the social, economic, ecological, cultural and spiritual functions of forests;** [see previous para. 2 (g) bis]

(e) **Major groups as identified by Agenda 21, local communities** and other stakeholders can contribute to achieving sustainable forest management and, as such, should be involved in a transparent and participatory way in forest decision-making **processes** that affect them, **in accordance with national forest policies;** [see previous para. 2 (h)]

(f) **Sustainable forest management requires adequate financial resources to ensure its sustainability and competitiveness in the long term;** [see previous para. 2 (g) ter]

(g) International cooperation, **in particular financial support, technology transfer and capacity-building,** plays a crucial catalytic role in **supporting** the efforts of **all countries, particularly** developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to **achieve sustainable forest management;** [see previous para. 2 (e)]

2. For the purposes of the present **international** instrument/understanding/code: [see previous para. 3]

(a) "*International arrangement on forests*" means the arrangement consisting of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests established with the *objective of promoting the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end;*[13] [see previous para. 3 (a)]

(b) **"Forests" refers to all types of forests;** [see previous para. 7]

(c) "Forest resources": The natural resources found in a forest that include water, wildlife, foliage and forest floor plants,[14] as well as in wooded land and trees outside forests;[15] [see previous para. 3 (h)]

(d) "Forest goods and services": Wood and non-wood forest products obtained from forests, and environmental services (for example, conservation of soil, water, biological diversity; micro and macro climatic effects; nutrient cycling) and socio-cultural services other than those provided by the production of wood and non-wood products (for example, recreation and tourism; protection of cultural, aesthetic and scientific values) provided by forests;[16] [see previous para. 3 (i)]

(e) "Environmentally sound technologies" are not just individual technologies, but total systems which include know-how, procedures, goods and services, and equipment, as well as organizational and managerial procedures;[17] [see previous para. 3 (j)]

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[13] Based on resolution 2000/35, paras. 1-3.

[14] Marc Coté, ed., *Dictionnaire de la foresterie/Dictionary of Forestry/Diccionario de foresteria*, special edition for the XII World Forestry Congress, p. 451.

[15] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Forest Resources Assessment 2005.

[16] FAO.

[17] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference* United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and Corrigendum) resolution 1, annex II, para. 34.3.

(f) **"Major groups as identified by Agenda 21" include indigenous peoples, non-government organizations, small forest landowners, business and industry, workers and trade unions, the scientific and technological community, women, children and youth and local authorities.** [see previous para. 3 (k)]

II. Purpose

3. The purpose of the present **international** instrument/understanding/code is:

(a) **To strengthen political commitment and actions at the national, regional and global levels to implement effectively sustainable forest management and to achieve the global objectives on forests;** [see previous first part of para. 4 bis]

(b) **To enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular with respect to poverty eradication and environmental sustainability;** [see previous para. 4 ter (b)]

(c) To provide a **policy framework** for closer cooperation and collaboration among the many forest-related international and regional agreements, processes and organizations; [see previous (d) of para. 4 and second part of para. 4 bis]

(d) **To provide guidance for national action and international cooperation to those ends.** [see previous para. 4 ter (c)]

III. Global objectives on forests

4. **Member/subscribing/participating States reaffirm the following shared global objectives on forests and the intention to work globally, regionally and nationally to achieve progress towards their achievements by 2015:** [see previous para. 6 bis]

Global objective 1

Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation.[18]

Global objective 2

Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest dependent people.[18]

Global objective 3

Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests.[18]

[18] Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, para. 3.

Global objective 4

Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management.[18]

IV. The seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management

5. **Sustainable forest management is the process of planning and implementing programmes and practices to provide for and to maintain the full range of social, economic and environmental functions of forests to meet the needs of present and future generations. The following seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management, drawn from the criteria identified by existing criteria and indicator processes, offer a coherent and useful reference framework for sustainable forest management and constitute an indicative global set of criteria for sustainable forest management:**

(a) **Extent of forest resources;**

(b) **Forest biological diversity;**

(c) **Forest health and vitality;**

(d) **Productive functions of forest resources;**

(e) **Protective functions of forest resources;**

(f) **Socio-economic functions of forests;**

(g) **Legal, policy and institutional framework.**

[see previous para. 10 ter]

6. **Member/participating/subscribing States and international organizations should:**

(a) **Take into account the seven thematic elements and the relevant Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action and the resolutions of the United Nations Forum on Forests in order to facilitate sustainable forest management;**

(b) **Facilitate efforts to increase greater stakeholder understanding of the intent of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposals for action and United Nations Forum on Forests resolutions, including through clustering and further simplifying of the language as needed.** [see previous para. 10 quater with additions made by the Forum secretariat]

V. National policies and measures for implementing sustainable forest management and achieving the global objectives on forests

7. **While taking national sovereignty, legislation, practices and conditions, available resources and needs and priorities into account, in order to contribute to sustainable forest management and the above shared global objectives on forests:** [see previous para. 8 bis]

A. Policies and instruments, including national forest programmes or equivalent strategies

8. **Member/participating/subscribing States resolve:**

(a) To **continue to implement** the proposals for action adopted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the resolutions of the United Nations Forum on Forests, **in accordance with national circumstances**, in programmes, plans and strategies that aim at the achievement of sustainable forest management and the global objectives on forests; [see previous para. 8 (a)]

(b) To formulate, implement, publish and regularly update national programmes, **including national forest programmes or equivalents,** containing measures **and targets** to support and **enhance** sustainable forest management **and to achieve** the global objectives on forests; [see previous paras. 8 (b) and 8 (b) bis, which have been merged]

(c) **To *promote the use of management tools such as* *environmental impact assessments* *for projects with potential impacts on forests and life cycle assessments, subject to national legislation;*** *[see previous para. 8 (i)]*

(d) **To *develop and implement policies designed to promote sustainable production of wood and non-wood forest goods and services that reflect a wide range of values,* including social and cultural values, *and to ensure that the benefits of commercialization of wood and non-wood forest goods and services contribute to improved management of forests and are equitably distributed to the people who protect and provide them*;**[19]

(e) **To further develop and implement criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management.**

B. Creating and promoting an enabling environment for sustainable forest management

9. **Member/participating/subscribing States resolve:**

(a) *To create an enabling environment for investment in sustainable forest management, including to* **support reforestation, afforestation and forest**

[19] IFF proposal for action, para. 122 (d).

restoration, *avoid the loss of forest cover and forest* ***degradation*** **and manage protected forest areas;**[20] [see previous para. 36 (h)]

(b) ***Recognizing the role of the private sector, where appropriate, in producing forest products and services,***[21] *to create an enabling environment for the involvement of and investment by local communities and other forest users in sustainable forest management*[22]*;* [see previous para. 36 (i)] ***This role may need to be supported within a framework of policies, incentives and regulations, such as secure land tenure and appropriate tax policies to help ensure the improved management of forests and sustained production of a wide range of goods and services;***[21]

(c) *To encourage the development* **and implementation** *of mechanisms,* **including** *systems for attributing proper value, as appropriate, to the* **costs and** *benefits derived from goods and services provided by forests and trees outside forests, consistent with relevant national legislation and policies.*[23] [see previous para. 36 (l)]

C. Enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination

10. **Member/participating/subscribing States resolve:**

(a) To identify and implement appropriate measures at the national, regional and global levels *to enhance cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination*[24] among sectors affecting and affected by forest management, **inter alia, with a view to address the underlying causes of deforestation, effective forest conservation and to achieve the global objectives on forests;** [see previous para. 8 (d)]

(b) ***To integrate national forest programmes or other forest strategies into national strategies for sustainable development, relevant national action plans and, where appropriate, poverty reduction strategies;***[25] [see previous paras. 8 (c) ter and 8 (o) octiens, which have been merged]

(c) To strengthen *cooperation and partnerships at the regional level, as needed, to:*

i. *increase political, financial and technical support and capacity;*

ii. *develop regional strategies and plans for implementation;*

iii. *collaborate on implementation activities;*

iv. *exchange experiences and lessons learned;*[26]

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[20] Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49, para. 5 (i).

[21] IFF proposal for action, 122 (b).

[22] Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49, para. 5 (j).

[23] Ibid., para. 5 (l).

[24] Ibid., 2006/49, para. 7, chapeau.

[25] Ibid., para. 6 (c).

[26] Ibid., paras. 7 (c) (i)-(c) (iv).

v. *enhance forest-related wildlife law enforcement and governance;* [see previous para. 25 (b)]

(d) To promote bilateral, regional and international cooperation on forest law enforcement and governance to combat illegal logging and its associated trade, particularly on illegally harvested timber, non-timber products, wildlife and other forest products; [see previous para. 25 (c)]

(e) **Recognizing the important role of the private sector in achieving sustainable forest management**, to *establish or strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships and programmes*;[27] [see previous para. 25 (e)]

(f) To facilitate international support, especially through the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, for national actions to implement sustainable forest management and establish and maintain protected forest areas; [see previous para. 28]

(g) *As State members of the governing bodies of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, to help ensure that the forest-related priorities and programmes of members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests are integrated and mutually supportive, consistent with their mandates*;[28] [see previous para. 30]

(h) As *State members of the governing bodies of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests*, to help ensure that forest-related activities in their programmes of work are in line with the present international instrument/understanding/code.[28] [see previous para. 31]

D. Governance and forest law enforcement

11. **Member/participating/subscribing States resolve:**

(a) **To develop and implement strategies to strengthen forest law enforcement and governance in order to combat and eradicate illegal practices and corruption in the forest sector**; [see previous paras. 8 (o) bis and 8 (o) sexiens, which have been merged]

(b) To *strengthen the capacity of countries*, **in particular developing countries**, *to address illegal* **harvesting of forest products** *according to national legislation* **and associated trade** *through the promotion of forest law enforcement and governance at the national and subnational and regional and subregional levels;*[29] [see previous para. 40 (e)]

(c) **To strengthen governance, *within their respective legal frameworks,* in particular *to support land tenure policies that recognize and respect legitimate access and use, and property rights, in order to support sustainable forest management and investment, recognizing that institutionalizing tenure is a long-term and complex process which requires interim measures to address urgent needs, in particular of local and/or indigenous communities.***[30]

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[27] Ibid., para. 7 (d).

[28] Ibid., para. 24.

[29] Ibid., para. 6 (g).

[30] Intergovernmental Panel on Forests proposal for action, para. 115 (a).

E. Forest health and vitality and protected areas

12. **Member/participating/subscribing States resolve:**

(a) **To address threats to forest health and vitality, including threats from fire, pollution, pests and diseases**; [see previous para. 8 (h) bis]

(b) To **create**, develop **and expand** networks of protected areas; [see previous para. 8 (g)]

(c) ***To commit themselves to the protection, conservation and representativeness of all types of forests, consistent with national forest policies and programmes that recognize the linkage between forest conservation and sustainable development. That commitment may be achieved through a range of conservation mechanisms, reflecting varying national circumstances, applied within and outside of protected forest areas, and the complementary roles of protected forest areas and other sustainable forest management activities such as, for example, the production of wood and non-wood products and services, where forest conservation is promoted by other means;***[31]

(d) To ***develop methodologies for assessing the conditions and management effectiveness in existing protected forest areas and the surrounding landscape and in protected forest area networks, taking into account the various efforts under way in several countries to build further capacity to collect, organize, utilize and share information and experience, including indigenous and local knowledge, in order to create and manage protected forest areas.***[32]

F. Research

13. **Member/participating/subscribing States resolve:**

(a) **To strengthen the contribution of science and research in advancing sustainable forest management by incorporating scientific expertise into forest policies and programmes;** [see previous para. 13 bis]

(b) Also to *strengthen, within their capacities, linkages between science and policy by enhancing the capacities of research organizations, institutions and scientists*.[33] [see previous para. 14]

(c) **To enhance the research and scientific forest-related capacities of developing countries;** [see previous para. 14 bis]

(d) **To promote international technical and scientific cooperation, including South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, in the field of sustainable forest management, where necessary, through the appropriate international, regional and national institutions**; [see previous para. 13 ter]

(e) **To undertake collaborative research and development with potential technical and financial support from developed countries in the field of sustainable forest management;** [see previous para. 13 quinquiens]

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[31] Intergovernmental Forum on Forests proposal for action, para. 85.

[32] Ibid., para. 88.

[33] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 22* and corrigendum (E/2004/42 and Corr.1), chap. I.B, resolution 4/1, para. 1.

(f) To *strengthen forestry education, research and development through global, regional and subregional networks, as well as through relevant organizations, institutions and centres of excellence in all regions of the world, particularly in developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition;* [34] [see previous para. 15]

(g) **To provide greater support to scientific and technological innovation as well as traditional forest-related knowledge for sustainable forest management, including innovations that help indigenous and local communities undertake sustainable forest management;** [see previous para. 13 quater]

(h) **To** support *the joint initiative by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, the Center for International Forestry Research, and the International Center for Research in Agroforestry, in collaboration with other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, on science and technology in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests by assessing available information and producing reports on forest-related issues of high concern to the* Forum and the implementation of this International Instrument/Understanding/Code;[35] [see previous para. 19]

(i) **To encourage, as members of the governing bodies of Collaborative Partnership on Forests member organizations, the pursuit of joint initiatives on science and technology to strengthen the contribution of research and development in advancing sustainable forest management;** [see previous paras. 18 and 19 alt]

G. Public awareness and education

14. **Member/participating/subscribing States resolve:**

(a) To promote and encourage, **including through the media,** understanding of the importance of **sustainable forest management and its inclusion** in education programmes; [see previous para. 21]

(b) **To promote and encourage universal access to formal and informal education, extension and training programmes required for the implementation of sustainable forest management;** [see previous para. 22 bis]

(c) To *support national programmes of education* and public awareness *regarding sustainable forest management among* **all stakeholders, including major groups as identified in Agenda 21, in particular** *youth*, women, **local and forest-dependent communities** and **indigenous peoples;**[36] [see previous para. 24]

(d) ***To support education, training, extension systems and participatory research involving indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles in order to develop resource management approaches that will reduce the pressure on forests in fragile ecosystems.***[37]

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[34] Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49, para. 7 (b).

[35] Ibid., para. 23.

[36] Language taken from *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 22* (E/2003/42), chap. I.C, resolution 3/2, para. 13.

[37] IPF, proposal for action, para. 46 (d).

H. Participation of major groups and other stakeholders

15. Member/participating/subscribing States resolve:

(a) To promote the active participation and empowerment of all major groups as identified by Agenda 21 and other stakeholders in a transparent and participatory manner in the development, implementation and evaluation of forest policies and programmes at all levels and in assessing progress made towards sustainable forest management and the achievement of the global objectives on forests, with a view to taking into account the broad range of social and cultural aspects of forests; [see previous para. 8 (k) bis, which has been revised and merged with paras. 8 (k) and 8 (l)]

(b) To promote the active participation of local and forest-dependent communities in the development and implementation of sustainable forest management policies and programmes that contribute to the development of culturally appropriate employment opportunities for local communities; [see previous para. 8 (l) bis, which has been revised]

(c) *To encourage* **forest owners and** *the private sector, including timber* **and non-timber forest product** *processors, exporters and importers, as well as civil society organizations, to develop, promote and implement voluntary instruments*, **approaches and measures, such as** forest certification schemes, in order *to adopt good business practices and to improve market transparency*;[38] [see previous para. 8 (m)]

(d) To encourage the development, promotion and implementation of voluntary measures, such as forest certification schemes, in order to demonstrate legal and sustainable production of forest goods and services and to enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits; [see previous para. 8 (m) bis]

(e) *To foster access, where appropriate, by households and communities to forest resources and markets*;[39] [see previous para. 8 (n)]

(f) To *support livelihoods and income diversification from forest products and services for small-scale forest owners, indigenous peoples, including forest-dependent local communities and poor people living in and around forest areas, consistent with sustainable forest management objectives*;[40] [see previous para. 36 (p)]

(g) To initiate or strengthen private-public partnerships to promote implementation of national forest programmes, criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management and good business practices. [see previous para. 8 (o) quinquiens]

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[38] Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49, para. 6 (h).

[39] Ibid., para. 5 (m).

[40] Ibid., para. 5 (n).

VI. International trade in forest products

16. Member/**subscribing/participating** States **resolve:**

(a) **To encourage trade in forest products and investment in the forest sector by removing barriers to trade and by developing and implementing open, predictable and non-discriminatory international rules and practices for trade and investment and further promote market access for products from sustainably managed forests;** [see previous para. 11 (a) and (b) alt]

(b) To promote a mutually supportive relationship between trade and environment and to this end further facilitate legal trade in products from sustainably managed and legally harvested forests; [see previous para. 20 (c alt) (c alt merges c, d, e)]

(c) To take actions to prohibit trade in illegally harvested forest products; [see previous para. 20 (e alt)]

(d) To promote bilateral, regional and international cooperation in forest law enforcement and governance to combat the illegal **harvesting of, and associated trade in, timber, wildlife and non-timber products;** [see previous para. 20 (f)]

(e) To strengthen their ***capacities to address illegal forest-related practices according to national legislation and*** **associated** ***trade in forest products, through the promotion of forest law enforcement and governance at the subnational, national, subregional, and regional levels, as appropriate;***[29] [see previous para. 2 (f alt)]

(f) To ensure that *voluntary certification and labelling schemes are operated in accordance with relevant* **international obligations** so that *such schemes are not used as a form of* **arbitrary or unjustified discrimination or disguised restriction in international trade;**[41] [see previous para. 11 (g)]

(g) To promote valuation **and** accounting systems that internalize the full environmental, **economic,** social **and cultural** costs of forest products **and services** sourced from **all types of** forests; [see previous para. 11 (h)]

(h) To encourage, adopt or extend, consistent with international obligations, public procurement policies to the extent that they are supportive of international policies that favour legally sourced timber and share experiences of this with the private sector and with others; [see previous para. 11 (h) bis]

(i) To establish an appropriate international mechanism to objectively and transparently assess forest certification schemes and public procurement policies against standards that will be internationally agreed in order to promote mutual recognition of forest certification schemes and to facilitate trade in legally and sustainably produced forest goods and services; [see previous para. 11 (h) ter]

[41] IPF, proposal for action, para. 133 (a).

(j) To address **legal and** illegal forest-related practices and associated trade in forest products through **appropriate mechanisms, inter alia,** greater information-sharing and international cooperation **through the United Nations Forum on Forests**. [see previous para. 12]

VII. Means of implementation and international cooperation

A. Mobilizing resources for sustainable forest management

17. Member/participating/subscribing States resolve:

(a) *To make concerted efforts to secure sustained high-level political commitment to strengthen the means of implementation, including* **the provision of predictable and adequate** *financial resources, to support in particular* **the efforts of** *developing countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition to achieve the global objectives and to promote sustainable forest management by:*[42] [see previous para. 36]

(b) *To reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management;*[43] [see previous para. 36 (a)]

(c) *To mobilize and provide significant new and additional resources for sustainable forest management from private, public, domestic and international sources to and within developing countries, especially least developed countries, landlocked developing countries,* **low forest cover countries and** *small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition,* including through voluntary **and enhanced** contributions to *existing forest-related funds hosted by members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, including the National Forest Programme Facility, the Programme on Forests and the Bali Partnership Fund,*[44] **to support national forest programmes and national actions aimed at implementing sustainable forest management and at integrating forest issues in national development programmes and, where appropriate, poverty reduction strategies;** [see previous para. 36 (b)]

(d) To develop a mechanism of positive incentives to finance the efforts from developing countries to reduce the loss of forests, and increase the area of protected forests and planted forests and to implement sustainable forest management; [see previous para. 36 (p) bis]

(e) **To support the efforts of countries to develop and implement** economically, **culturally** and socially sound measures that act as incentives for the sustainable management of forests, **including the development of financial strategies.** [see previous para. 37]

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[42] Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49, para. 5.

[43] Ibid., para. 5 (a).

[44] Ibid., paras. 5 (b), 5 (c) and 5 (d).

B. Transfer of environmentally sound technologies, capacity-building and technical assistance

18. Member/participating/subscribing States resolve:

(a) To *enhance the capacity of countries, in particular developing countries, to significantly increase the production of forest products from sustainably managed forests*;[45] [see previous para. 40 (a)]

(b) To develop and strengthen institutions to create transparent and effective markets for the products and services, including non-wood forest products and ecosystem services, of sustainably managed forests; [see previous para. 8 (o) septiens]

(c) To *strengthen mechanisms that enhance sharing and use of best practices in sustainable forest management*,[46] **including through voluntary codes of conduct;**[47] [see previous paras. 40 (d) and 8 (o) quater]

(d) To strengthen the capacity of countries to effectively combat wildlife poaching in forests and related trafficking in wildlife and wildlife parts, **as well as the traffic of forest-related biological resources,** through enhanced public awareness, education, law enforcement and information networks, **in accordance with national legislation and policies and international obligations;** [see previous para. 40 (f)]

(e) To enhance access to and transfer of **appropriate and** environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how **relevant to sustainable forest management, including development of value added products, on mutually agreed terms,** in accordance with the relevant provisions of Agenda 21, [see previous para. 40 (h)] **and to *increase productivity and efficiency in downstream processing activities and to support, where appropriate, community-based processing and marketing of wood and non-timber forest products*;**[48]

(f) To *provide greater support to scientific and technological innovations for sustainable forest management, including innovations that help* **indigenous and** *local communities undertake sustainable forest management*;[49] [see previous para. 40 (i)]

(g) To strengthen national and local capacity for the **development and** adaptation of technologies to national and local conditions, **including on wood for energy**; [see previous para. 40 (j)]

(h) To enhance the transfer of environmentally sound technologies for value added processing at source that provides optimum benefits for local communities and indigenous peoples; [see previous para. 40 (m) ter]

(i) To promote effective **preservation,** protection **and** use and related benefit-sharing of traditional **forest-related** knowledge **and practices** in sustainable forest management, **according to national legislation and, as applicable, in**

[45] Ibid., para. 6 (b).
[46] Ibid., para. 6 (f).
[47] Addressed in IPF, proposal for action, paras. 69 (a) and 128 (c).
[48] Ibid., para. 131 (a).
[49] Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49, para. 6 (a).

accordance with the principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity; [see previous para. 40 (l)]

(j) **To promote the transfer and use of information and communication technologies, including the development of freeware-based technology, to support the implementation of sustainable forest management and the achievement of the global objectives on forests;** [see previous para. 40 (m) bis]

(k) To promote the provision of technical assistance to other member/**participating/subscribing** States, especially those that are developing countries **and** countries with economies in transition, either bilaterally or through the appropriate international organizations, with the objective of facilitating the implementation of the present international instrument/understanding/code. [see previous para. 41]

International cooperation in capacity-building, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and technical assistance

19. *International* technical and scientific *cooperation, including South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation*[50] in the field of sustainable forest management, where necessary, should be promoted through the appropriate international, regional and national institutions **and processes**; [see previous para. 40 (k)]

20. The *members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, in particular the World Bank, as host of the Programme on Forests, are invited to maintain and enhance support to analytical work and knowledge-generation and to develop new tools and approaches to key issues within the forest sector, in particular those relevant to the global objectives on forests, in order to support developing countries, as well as countries with economies in transition,* **to mobilize and access** *additional national and international funding;*[51] [see previous para. 36 (e)]

21. *The Global Environment Facility Council is invited to fully consider the potential for strengthened Global Environment Facility support for sustainable forest management, including the option to establish a separate operational programme on forests,* **with sufficient additional funds,** *without prejudicing other operational programmes.*[52] [see previous para. 36 (f)]

International cooperation in research

22. *The donor community, international organizations and financial institutions are called upon to enhance the capacity of research organizations in developing countries in generating and accessing forest-related data and information, including through information and communication technologies infrastructure, strengthening the skills of researchers and supporting networking activities.*[53] [see previous para. 16]

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[50] Ibid., para. 6 (d).

[51] Ibid., para. 5 (f).

[52] Ibid., para. 5 (g).

[53] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2004, Supplement No. 22* and corrigendum (E/2004/22 and Corr.1), chap. I.B, resolution 4/1, para. 4.

23. *International and regional organizations, institutions and processes, with the involvement of various stakeholders, are encouraged to promote and support integrated and interdisciplinary research on forest-related issues of importance at the national and global levels, both within and between national and international research organizations and institutions, to enhance sustainable forest management and to promote conservation and sustainable use of forest resources.*[54] [see previous para. 17]

24. *The Collaborative Partnership on Forests is invited to provide, if requested by the United Nations Forum on Forests, an assessment of scientific knowledge-based actions needed to achieve sustainable forest management and the global objectives at all levels.*[55] [see previous para. 18]

25. **Member/participating/subscribing States and** member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, financial institutions and relevant regional and international organizations should **resolve to** strengthen follow-up to the implementation of resolution 4/1 on forest-related scientific knowledge, adopted by the Forum at its fourth session. [see previous para. 20]

International cooperation in public awareness and education

26. Member/participating/subscribing States **resolve to** cooperate, as appropriate, with other member States and international organizations **and major groups as identified in Agenda 21** in developing educational and public awareness programmes with respect to the sustainable management of forests. [see previous para. 23]

C. Major groups

27. Countries, international and regional processes and organizations shall involve the major groups as identified in Agenda 21 at all levels in the implementation of the present instrument. [see previous para. 35 bis]

VIII. Financing mechanisms

28. Member/participating/subscribing States resolve:

(a) Option 1: To establish a global financing mechanism/global forest fund/forest development fund **applicable to all types of forests** with the aim of providing **dedicated and sufficient** financial resources for achieving **sustainable forest management and** the **global** objectives of the present **international** instrument/understanding/code, **in particular for developing countries;** [see previous para. 36 (c)]

(b) Option 2: To assess and review the current funding mechanisms as well as, if appropriate, inter alia, the possibility of having a voluntary global funding

[54] Ibid., para. 6.

[55] Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49, para. 22 (e).

mechanism as a contribution towards achieving the global objectives and implementing sustainable forest management;[56] [see previous para. 36 (d)]

(c) *To further develop* **and implement** *innovative financial mechanisms,* **including debt reduction mechanisms,** *for generating revenue to support sustainable forest management*;[57] [see previous para. 36 (k)]

(d) To create financial mechanisms to support forestry-related rural development for the benefit of forest dependent local communities, especially in developing countries; [see previous para. 36 (m) bis]

(e) **In order to contribute to efforts addressing climate change,** to develop and implement clean development mechanism strategies **and proposals for reducing transaction costs** for **the participation of developing countries** in market-based mechanisms of carbon sequestration promoting afforestation and reforestation, **as well as mechanisms to reduce deforestation, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition**; [see previous para. 36 (n), first part]

(e) To encourage *the governing bodies of* **the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other** *international financial institutions, development agencies and regional banks to consider ways to generate and facilitate access to resources, and to respond to requests from developing countries to finance forest-related activities,* **especially in the implementation of sustainable forest management**;[58] [see previous para. 36 (g)]

(g) To request the World Bank, regional development banks and other international and bilateral financial institutions to allocate funds for afforestation/reforestation projects in the context of addressing climate change; [see previous para. 36 (n), second part]

IX. Facilitative process

(**Note**: If a financial mechanism or facility is established for the instrument, the facilitative process could be considered in the development of the financial rules and procedures)

29. A Committee of experts is hereby established to promote and facilitate the implementation of the present international instrument/understanding/code, by, inter alia, giving advice and assistance to the United Nations Forum on Forests, upon its request, regarding international and regional implementation, and to any subscribing State, upon its request, regarding national implementation of the present international instrument/understanding/code. [see previous para. 49]

30. The Committee will conduct its work in a constructive and timely manner, and be non-judicial. [see previous para. 50]

31. The Committee will consist of [*x*] members nominated by member States and elected by the United Nations Forum on Forests on the basis of [*y*] from each of the

[56] Ibid., para. 5 (e).
[57] Ibid., para. 5 (k).
[58] Ibid., para. 5 (h).

five regional groups of the United Nations **and [z] focal points from the major groups as identified in Agenda 21.** [see previous para. 51]

32. Members of the Committee will have recognized competence in the field of sustainable forest management or other relevant fields of the present international instrument/understanding/code, including scientific, technical or legal expertise, and they will serve as experts in their individual capacity. [see previous para. 52]

33. Members will be elected for a period of [z] years. Members will not serve for more than two consecutive terms. [see previous para. 53]

34. The Committee may draw upon outside expertise as it deems necessary. [see previous para. 54]

35. The Committee will be serviced by the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests and will hold sessions as necessary and, whenever possible, in conjunction with sessions of the Forum. [see previous para. 55]

36. The Committee will report to each session of the United Nations Forum on Forests on all aspects of its work for consideration and appropriate action by the Forum. [see previous para. 56]

37. The Committee will, upon a request received in accordance with paragraph 21, consider questions regarding the implementation of the present international instrument/understanding/code in consultation with the subscribing State concerned and in the light of the nature of the question, and may: [see previous para. 57]

(a) Clarify and resolve questions of implementation;

(b) Provide advice to the subscribing State concerned, including on the access to technical and financial resources for the resolution of those difficulties;

(c) Assist, as appropriate, the subscribing State concerned to further develop national forest programmes, policies and strategies with a view to the implementation of the present international instrument/understanding/code within an adequate time frame;

(d) Invite the subscribing State concerned to submit progress reports to the Committee on the efforts it is making to implement the provisions of the present international instrument/understanding/code.

X. Monitoring, assessment and reporting

38. Member **States** will monitor and assess forest conditions and *progress towards sustainable forest management and in implementing national measures, policies, actions or specific objectives towards achieving the global objectives on forests, taking into consideration, as appropriate, the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management*[59] **and utilizing as much as possible indicators from existing criteria and indicators processes.** [see previous paras. 42 and 43 alt]

39. Member States *will submit,* **on a voluntary basis and taking into account the availability of resources biannually,** *national reports to the United Nations Forum on Forests, on progress in implementing national measures, policies, actions or*

[59] Ibid., para. 19.

specific objectives towards achieving the global objectives on forests in support of the present international instrument/understanding/code, *taking into consideration, as appropriate, the seven thematic elements of sustainable forest management*, in one of the official languages of the United Nations.[59] [see previous para. 44 bis]

40. *The Collaborative Partnership on Forests is also invited to continue to report in a consolidated manner to the United Nations Forum on Forests on its initiatives and activities, including progress on the means of implementation, in support of the work of the Forum* and the implementation of the present international instrument/understanding/code.[60] Comparable methodologies should be utilized, taking into account reports required by other multilateral environmental agreements. [see previous para. 44 ter]

41. **The secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests is requested to support the efforts of developing countries to enhance their national capacities for monitoring, assessment and reporting as set out in section V.** [see previous para. 44 quater]

42. The secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests will prepare, on the basis of the national reports and any other relevant information, **periodic** synthesis reports including recommendations to the Forum on decisions to enhance the implementation of the present international instrument/understanding/code. Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests are invited to participate in the preparation of the synthesis reports, **taking into account the multi-year programme of work**. [see previous para. 45]

43. *The members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, in collaboration with the United Nations Forum on Forests, are invited to further harmonize processes for voluntary monitoring, assessment and reporting* **of the implementation of the present instrument,** *taking into account the seven thematic elements for sustainable forest management, with a view to reducing the reporting burden on countries.*[61] [see previous para. 46]

Information exchange

44. Member States will facilitate the exchange of information on sustainable forest management, including exchange of the results of technical, scientific and socio-economic research, as well as information on training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge and indigenous and traditional **forest-related** knowledge. [see previous para. 58]

XI. Relationship to other instruments

45. Taking into account the work undertaken by *existing international instruments relevant to forests,*[62] *interaction should be strengthened with those instruments in*

[60] Ibid., para. 21.
[61] Ibid., para. 20.
[62] Ibid., fifth preambular paragraph.

order to facilitate enhanced cooperation, **synergies** *and effective implementation of sustainable forest management.*[63] [see previous para. 9]

46. *Relevant multilateral environmental agreements, instruments, processes and United Nations bodies are invited to improve collaboration and cooperation with the international arrangement on forests* and this non-legally binding **international** instrument/understanding/code.[64] [see previous para. 26]

47. The United Nations Forum on Forests will establish and maintain cooperation with relevant international organizations, institutions, treaty bodies and major groups on matters covered by the present international instrument/understanding/code in a mutually supportive manner. [see previous para. 27]

A. Regional processes and organizations

48. F*orest-related regional and subregional bodies, mechanisms and processes, in coordination with the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat, as appropriate, are invited to strengthen collaboration and to provide input to the work of the Forum* in the implementation of the present **international** instrument/understanding/code *by*:[65] [see previous para. 35]

(a) Raising *awareness of the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests* and the present **international** instrument/understanding/code *at the regional and subregional levels*;[66]

(b) Addressing *topics identified in the multi-year programme of work, with a view to sharing with the United Nations Forum on Forests regional and subregional perspectives on these topics*;[67]

(c) *Encouraging participation of interested members of the United Nations Forum on Forests, especially from within the region, as well as members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, relevant regional organizations and major groups.*[68]

B. International processes and organizations

The Collaborative Partnership on Forests

49. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests is invited to support the work of the Forum and the present non-legally binding instrument/understanding/code. To that end, *the Forum will provide guidance to the Partnership.*[69] [see previous para. 29]

50. The United Nations Forum on Forests and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests will review the programmes of work of the members of the Collaborative

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[63] Ibid., para. 2 (c), and Ministerial Declaration and message from the United Nations Forum on Forests to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, para. 12.

[64] Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/49, para. 9.

[65] Ibid., para. 11.

[66] Ibid., para. 11 (a).

[67] Ibid., para. 11 (b).

[68] Ibid., para. 11 (c).

[69] Ibid., preambular para. 14 and para. 22 chapeau.

Partnership in order to identify opportunities for synergies as well as duplications and gaps with the international instrument/understanding/code, with a view to enhancing cooperation between the members of the Partnership, in particular by developing joint action plans. [see previous para. 32]

51. Members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests are invited to: [see previous para. 33]

(a) *Strengthen collaboration and coordination on forest issues in order to foster progress towards sustainable forest management at the global, regional and national levels*;[70]

(b) *Further harmonize processes for voluntary monitoring, assessment and reporting, taking into account the seven thematic elements for sustainable forest management, with a view to reducing the reporting burden on countries*;[61]

(c) *Translate relevant policy recommendations of the United Nations Forum on Forests* on the implementation of the present **international** instrument/ understanding/code *into their work programmes*.[71]

52. Member/**participating/subscribing** States and stakeholders *interested in the work of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests are urged to support its joint initiatives by making voluntary financial contributions to the respective lead organizations of the Partnership, as appropriate*.[72] [see previous para. 34]

XII. Institutional and working modalities

A. Governing body of the instrument

53. The United Nations Forum on Forests will serve as the governing body of the present **international** instrument/understanding/code. [see previous para. 60]

54. The functions of the United Nations Forum on Forests will be to monitor and promote the full implementation of the present international instrument/ understanding/code, keeping in view its purpose **and the Global Objectives on Forests**, inter alia, by adopting plans and programmes for the implementation of the present international instrument/understanding/code. [see previous para. 61]

B. Secretariat of the instrument

55. The secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests will serve as the secretariat of the present **international** instrument/understanding/code. [see previous para. 72]

56. For the purposes of the present **international** instrument/understanding/code, the secretariat of the Forum will perform functions, including: [see previous para. 73]

(a) To arrange for and service sessions of the Forum and of any subsidiary body that may be established;

[70] Ibid., para. 22 (a).
[71] Ibid., para. 22 (c).
[72] Ibid., para. 25.

(b) To assist the Forum in carrying out those functions, including the performance of specific tasks that the Forum may decide to assign to it;

(c) To report on its activities to the Forum with respect to the present international instrument/understanding/code;

(d) To fulfil any other duties that may be required by the Forum. [see previous para. 73 (c) bis]

57. The secretariat will collaborate with relevant international organizations, institutions and treaty bodies, in particular with the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and major groups **as identified in Agenda 21** in **promoting the achievement of** the objectives of the present international instrument/ understanding/code. [see previous para. 74]

C. Subsidiary bodies

58. The United Nations Forum **on Forests** may establish, as necessary, subsidiary or advisory bodies for supporting the implementation of the instrument. That could include, inter alia, ad hoc expert groups, ad hoc working groups, scientific and/or technical advisory bodies and other intersessional bodies. [see previous para. 66]

D. Meetings

59. The United Nations Forum on Forests will assess progress in the implementation of the **international** instrument/understanding/code, including a review of national reports, the mobilization of resources, support provided by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and cooperation with other forest-related processes. The Forum will consider and decide upon any additional actions required for the implementation of the instrument/understanding/code and the achievement of the global objectives on forests. [see previous para. 62]

60. In addressing the implementation of the present **international** instrument/understanding/code, the *United Nations Forum on Forests will consider inputs from forest-related regional and subregional bodies, mechanisms and processes and from country-led initiatives, as well as from major groups.*[73] [see previous para. 63]

61. **For** alternate years, regional and subregional meetings should be held to discuss practical steps for the implementation of the present instrument/ understanding/code at the national and regional levels. Such meetings should be conducted in collaboration with regional or subregional organizations, mandated by their member States and acknowledged by the United Nations Forum on Forests. Meetings should be prepared jointly by the secretariat of the Forum and the designated organizations. [see previous para. 64]

62. *The* **secretariat of the** *United Nations Forum on Forests should continue to support participants from developing countries, with priority to the least developed*

[73] Ibid., para. 15.

countries, as well as from countries with economies in transition, in accordance with General Assembly decision 58/554.[74] [see previous para. 65]

63. The **secretariat of the** United Nations Forum on Forests should continue to encourage and facilitate participation of *major groups* **as identified in Agenda 21** *and other* **relevant** *forest stakeholders in the meetings and work of the Forum* **in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations with balanced geographic representation.**[75] [see previous para. 68]

E. Trust Fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests

64. Bearing in mind the importance of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Forum on Forests to supporting participants from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the meetings of the Forum as well as the work of the Forum secretariat, *donor Governments, financial institutions and other organizations are called upon to make voluntary financial contributions to the Trust Fund; and other countries in the position to do so, as well as other interested parties are urged to contribute to the Trust Fund.*[76] [see previous para. 76]

F. Review of progress achieved: 2015

65. **Member/participating/subscribing States will review the effectiveness of the present international instrument/understanding/code no later than 2015; in the context of the overall review of the international arrangement on forests and on that basis** *a full range of options will be considered, including, inter alia, a legally binding instrument on all types of forests, strengthening the current arrangement, continuation of the current arrangement and other options.* [see previous para. 77 ter]

XIII. Adoption/subscription

66. The member States of the United Nations Forum on Forests at its seventh session **adopt** the present international instrument/understanding/code on the sustainable management of all types of forests. [Note: Several feel that the contents of this paragraph could be incorporated into a resolution of the United Nations Forum on Forests rather than in the instrument itself; others also favour its adoption by the General Assembly.] [see previous para. 78]

67. Member States decide that the **international** instrument/understanding/code will be open for subscription by States and regional economic integration organizations by submitting a diplomatic note to the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests. That procedure applies mutatis mutandis to the withdrawal of States and regional economic integration organizations from the present instrument/understanding/code. The secretariat of the Forum should disseminate the status of States' subscription to the instrument/understanding/code

[74] Ibid., para. 16.
[75] Ibid., para. 12.
[76] Ibid., para. 18.

to all member States of the Forum on a periodic basis. [see previous para. 79]

68. The present international instrument/understanding/code becomes operational on [*day of inauguration*]. [see previous para. 80]

XIV. Amendments

69. **Member/participating/subscribing States** may decide on amendments/ modifications to the present international instrument/understanding/code subject to adoption by the General Assembly. [see previous para. 81]

XV. Adoption of annexes and supplementary instruments

70. **Member/participating/subscribing States** may decide on annexes and supplementary instruments to the present **international** instrument/understanding/ code subject to adoption by the General Assembly. [see previous para. 82]

XVI. Authentic texts

71. The original of the present international instrument/understanding/code, of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, will be deposited with the Secretariat. [see previous para. 83]